(c) the details of amount sanctioned for National Highways in NE States (North-Eastern States)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) For improvement of National Highways in the country 235 estimates amounting to Rs. 408.55 crore have been sanctioned during 1999-2000. Out of these, 68 estimates amounting to Rs. 68.68 crore have been sanctioned for North Eastern Region.

Privatisation of National Highways

186. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering privatisation of National Highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the circumstances which warranted this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The constraint of resoursces led to innovative methods of financing for development of national highways through private sector participation.

Construction of six jetty port near Haldia

187. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether six-jetty port is proposed to be constructed near Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when would autonomy be granted to Haldia Dock complex to increase its earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.